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CHINA MAIL OFFICE

1845

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統一廿月五年四十九百八十一號

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1894.

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CHINA MAIL
Editor and Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION:
Five Dollars a year, deliverable in Hong
Kong, or in any other port, including
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Steamers.

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GENOA; ALL MEDITERRANEAN,
ADEPTA, LEVANTINE AND SOUTHERN
ASIAN PORTS, UP TO CALABRIA, TURKEY,
AND SICILY, AND PERSIAN GULF
AND BAGDAD.

The Steamship *Stambul*,
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be despatched as above
on SATURDAY, the 2nd June, at Noon,
at BOMBAY, and thenceforward
in VICTORIA DOCK.

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FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND
CALCUTTA

The Steamship *Avondale*,
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Proximo, at Daylight.

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Hongkong, May 30, 1894.

FOR SINGAPORE, HAVRE, ANTWERP,
HAMBURG, ETC.

(Calling at NAPLES for loading Passengers
if sufficient in number.)

(Taking Passage through routes to
ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM,
LISBON, OPORTO, LONDON,
LIVERPOOL, AND BREMEN.)

The Steamship *Capo di Monte*,
Capt. L. B. HANNAH, will
be despatched as above
on TUESDAY, the 5th June.

Cargo will not be received on board after
12 m. prior to date of sailing.

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and Freight, apply to
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This Steamer has inspection Arrangements
for First and Second Class Passengers,
and carries a Doctor and a Surgeon.

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(Taking Passage through routes to
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The Co.'s Steamship
Capo di Monte,
Capt. R. H. HANNAH, will
be despatched as above on
or about the 8th Proximo.

For Freight, apply to
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.,
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Sailing Vessels.

FOR NEW YORK.

The 1000 G.I. British Ship
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For Freight, apply to
SIRMSSEN & CO.,
Hongkong, May 26, 1894.

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THE CHINA MAIL.

THE SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held this afternoon. The Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart) presided. There were also present:—Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. H. P. Tucker, Acting Director of Public Works; Hon. Dr. Ho Kai; Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.; Mr. J. D. Humphreys; Mr. Lau Wei-Chuen; and Mr. E. A. Ram, Acting Secretary.

The Chairman said:—We meet here to-day to consider certain addition of by-laws made under the Public Health Ordinance to effect measures which the Permanent Committee of the Board think should be introduced at once. Copies of these by-laws have also been circulated amongst members.

In consequence of some remarks made by Mr. Humphreys, the Chairman stated that the Permanent Committee sat every afternoon at 4 o'clock; and that the Permanent Committee would be glad to have the suggestions of any members of the Board for dealing with the plague.

Upon proceeding to the consideration of the by-laws, Mr. Humphreys made a long speech in the course of which he advocated a free expenditure of money to exterminate the plague instead of dealing with it in the present inefficient manner. He suggested that the people should be turned out of infected houses until they had been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Mr. Francis and the Captain Superintendent spoke to the urgency of proceeding at once to make the by-laws which had been resolved upon by the Permanent Committee—whom understood the position of affairs better than any other member of the Board—as the best means of dealing with the plague in its latest developments.

The by-laws were subsequently passed; a summary of them will be found in another column.

MANILA AND THE PLAGUE.

On the first news of the appearance of the plague in Hongkong reaching Manila, the inhabitants were startled by all sorts of wild rumours as to the exaggerated number of cases daily and the great percentage of deaths; but thanks to the calmness and discretion displayed by the press until the receipt of official news, the panic which at one time had a good hold on the mind of the people was soon dispelled by the official telegram from the Spanish Consul in Hongkong exposing the true state of affairs, and he has since been sending daily telegrams for the information of his Government. Notwithstanding this, the authorities at Manila have taken all precautionary measures and kept strict vigilance, especially on the Chinese section of the community, even to the extent of house-to-house visitation.

In order to allay the panic among the people here, says the *Conservator*, it may perhaps be explained that the tendency of the disease is always towards the north, that is, its expansive force seeks a climate different from ours, which up to the present no such endemic has yet been recorded. The climate whose temperature is cold or temperate, such as the Mediterranean coast, Persian Gulf, Indo-China, India, and the southern provinces of China, is most conducive to its development, and it is not likely that it will find its way to the torrid climate of the Philippines. The epidemic of *exanthematico* (*typhus*, a disease unknown in the Philippines) is the origin of the black plague, which could be imported both by land and sea, and which, when it invades a country, there must exist favourable circumstances for the micro-organism (yet unknown) to live and multiply. Poverty, bad food, filth &c., are indirect causes of its propagation; so, it will be seen that those who have been attacked in Hongkong are almost exclusively Chinese, whose manner of living is anything but hygienic.

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DES CHARBONNAGES DU TONKIN.

The annual general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held in the office of Messrs. Chater and Mody, Queen's Road Central, this afternoon.

On the motion of Mr. H. E. R. Hunter, seconded by Mr. H. N. Mody, the Hon. C. P. Chater was called on to preside.

There were also present:—Hon. J. J. Kewick, Messrs. H. N. Mody (Directors), R. B. Joyce (Secretary).

J. V. V. Vernon, T. I. Rose, D. B. Tata, S. R. Bishopton; E. Georg, M. G. Grote, G. H. Potts, J. M. G. Manuk, H. E. R. Hunter, S. S. Benjamin, Paul Jordan, A. Shelton Hooper, H. Hoppins, J. S. Moses, J. S. Ecclestone, M. S. S. Sackson, A. G. Morris, D. Newnham, T. E. E. Sackson, S. C. Michaelson, and Champin (auditor).

In accordance with the constitution, the Chairman laid several documents on the table. He stated that the number of shares represented at the meeting was 4,000, representing francs 2,100,000 and 173 votes. The two largest shareholders present were Mr. Mody and Mr. Grote, Chater (represented by Mr. Grote), who were appointed shareholders.

The following was the report of the Director General, read by the Secretary:

Gentlemen.—We have the honour of submitting to you, separately, the accounts of 1893, which include the modifications made in those of 1892, with which you voted at our last general meeting.

If the results of this year are not quite such as we might have hoped for, this does not in any way relate to the actual value of our enterprise, which continues to be an asset of great value in every point of view, but solely to the unfavourable conditions in which we are at present placed, as regards deriving all the advantages possible from it; a capital which is not sufficient to give our works the extension they demand, or to cover the cost of the repayment of certain advances made to us by another company, which will contribute to yet another loss.

It was to remedy this state of things that

meeting on the 2nd December, 1893, for the purpose of authorizing the Board of Directors to negotiate for an issue of stock and or debentures, with the object of endowing our enterprise with the means necessary for its normal and regular working and its progressive development.

In pursuance of the resolution passed on this occasion, by which your Board was invested with full powers to conclude a negotiation of this nature, our Director General left for France, where he is now acting in treaty with a group of financiers in order to bring about the realization of our project.

The news which up till now have reached us enable us to form favourable anticipations for the final result of our negotiations, the success of which will make the commencement of a period of prosperity which will yearly increase, keeping pace with the development of the resources of our mines.

Meanwhile our operations conclude with in the limits which we have assigned them, for the present, which consist in conforming the needs of the present to the demands of the future—that is to say, our actual output is designedly strictly maintained on a basis to allow us to meet our expenses, even though we might easily increase it, while at the same time we do not

lose sight of the preparatory works, which will result in a great development of the output.

It is not to our interest, indeed, to push this output until we have at once insured the means of transport by an increase in our plant; and an easy and remunerative disposal of it by the extension of our briquette factory.

As soon as a definite result has been arrived at of the financial arrangements for which we are actually in treaty, there will be no further obstacle to the development of our works, and we shall then be in a position to give our output all the amplitude it demands, and the conditions of its working so that the only limit to be assigned to it are those laid down by the combination which itself, by the variety and extent of its sphere, offers a vast field for its activity.

During this period, whilst we find facilities for disposing of our output at Hongkong, we continue, in view of its development, to try constantly to attract others a little everywhere from San Francisco on the one side to Hongkong on the other, with highly encouraging results. Thus, even at the risk of repetition, we think we can affirm that the future of our enterprise shows most favourably, and that before long the hopes we so justly formed, and so patiently waited for, will have found the realization they merit.

As in the past, all our efforts shall be directed to reach this end, which, moreover, we may look for in the near future, and which will, finally, justify the confidence which we all have placed in our vast enterprise.

The Secretary next read the following report by Mr. Aud. Champin, auditor:—Gentlemen, you will find in certain items of the balance sheet which is now presented to you some difference from those of the preceding one, which arises partly from the suppression of the Profit and Loss and Amortization accounts you desired to suppress at your last general meeting, and partly from the operations of the year. The account "Exploratory and Preliminary Works" is for instance increased this year by \$249,264.76. Of the other accounts: that of "Plant and Machinery" has been increased by a sum of \$90,654.78, arising from the arrival of the account of Screening and Hydromic Plant, which was wrongly entered in the preceding balance sheet under the account of property, there were further some purchases of plant, such as the Wetz trolley which is on the other hand the Property account is proportionately decreased.

The Profit and Loss account shows a debit balance this year of \$94,822.17, as I have been up to remark that the company owes a sum of \$109,550 which is due to the Profit and Loss account. The sum of \$109,550, arising from the arrival of the account of Screening and Hydromic Plant, which was wrongly entered in the preceding balance sheet under the account of property, there were further some purchases of plant, such as the Wetz trolley which is on the other hand the Property account is proportionately decreased.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, I must

in the first place apologize to you for the postponement of this meeting, which I fear must have caused some of you inconvenience. The cause was that after we had advertised it for the 20th, we received a telegram from Haiphong to say that last year at \$109,897.03, this year

we reached the sum of \$373,276.99. I have seen the accounts, which are in conformity with the books, and I therefore ask you, gentlemen, to be kind enough to approve and adopt the report which is submitted to you.

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No questions being asked, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Hopkins seconded.

Agreed.

On the motion of Mr. Grote, seconded by Mr. Michaelson, Messrs. Chater and Mody were re-elected Directors.

On the motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Mose, Mr. Champin was re-elected auditor.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, that is all the business before us. I thank you for your attendance, and I hope at the next meeting we shall be able to show you much better results.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CLEANING FIRES—A RECOMMENDATION.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

Hongkong, May 31, 1894.

Sir.—A correspondence appearing in your company, the *China Mail* (Wah Yee), on the 28th inst., suggested

the erection of pagoda-furnaces, or some such thing, with a perpetual fire-urn in a convenient place in various streets, especially in Tai Ping Shan, the hot-bed of plague germs, as a means of stamping out the disease, in view of the apparent ineffectiveness of the measures taken by the Sanitary Board in coping with the plague. He said about 10 years ago this kind of plague broke out in Nanking, where they are pushing on with the important work there, the Keatien shaft. In March of this year the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 150 metres, and had cut the Chater and Bavier-Chaufray seam. It was necessary that this shaft should be lined with masonry, to keep out the water, and prevent the earth falling in, which would cause it to take longer to complete than it otherwise would have done, but by the very next trip of the *Albiondale*, we are going to send down the last 50 fathoms of earth to be completed in a shorter time, and the powers on the 28th inst. agreed to it in a short time.

Seeing that the recent statistics show a steady increase instead of a decrease in the number of cases of plague, as was hopefully anticipated by every one, I have no hesitation in recommending his view, which is apparently quite feasible, to the powers on the Chater and Bavier-Chaufray seams, which will contribute to yet another success.

Yours truly,

PLAQUE.

TOMMY ATKINS' AND THE PLAGUE.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

May 31st, 1894.

Sir.—The Government of the Colony will incur lasting disgrace if it does not at once and over its due responsibilities give to the claimant of "Fair pay for dirty work."

He appears a most innocent and indeed a most irreproachable kind of person, but no less the mouthpiece of our soldier friend than his is now of some moment though not quite so very important as he makes out. His "hours" and "comrades to think and" voices complaints, and would be fairly convincing had he omitted the "rumoured" pay "filtered water."

"They care not what," he says, "re drink." Nor this is too, too plain. Clerks of his do care. A soldier has his preference for his pay brand, and is seldom slow about naming it. But this is just where "Fair pay for dirty work" gives the clue to his identity.

He is a leading local advocate of coddling us, and his "hours" and "comrades" to think and" voices complaints, and would be fairly convincing had he omitted the "rumoured" pay "filtered water."

"They care not what," he says, "re drink."

It is the first, his action is inexorable. The men he speaks for have officers, and those officers have more practical knowledge of and interest in their men than any amateur leader can have.

If a cold advocate, the Government

reasonable to hope that some solution of the problem may shortly be found.

The Standard gives the following paragraph:—Earl Russell, who is the President of the Army Paymaster's Protection Association, when about to travel from Cambridge to Liverpool-street, refused to give up his ticket until he reached his destination. The Great Eastern Railway Company's officials removed his luggage and were about to eject the Earl from the carriage, when the ticket was delivered up. The Company claimed a right, under its Bye-laws, to insist on the delivery of the ticket, and to take this Lord Russell brought an action, which was tried yesterday in the Lord Mayor's Court, when the Jury awarded him ten pounds damages, the Recorder refusing the Company's application for leave to appeal.

The Bishop of Canterbury, like most of the members of the episcopal bench, did his best to defeat the passage of the Parish Councils Act. Yesterday, speaking at the festival of the Queen, the Bishop of Canterbury said:—

"The Parish Councils Act would make a great difference in the villages and parishes, and its satisfactory working would be of great benefit to mankind in general. (Cheers.) It was because literature had done so much for soldiers that he, a soldier, ventured to speak on behalf of those who had suffered and struggled and suffered no war correspondents reported, and whose fortitude and courage in fighting the battle of life were recorded in no general despatches. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bayard gave the toast of "Literature," to which Mr. W. J. Courthope replied. Subscriptions to the amount of a little over 9000 were announced, including 1050 from the Queen, an amount unusually contributed by a Major for the last fifteen years.

Mr. W. N. Lupton, in proposing "The Chairman," said that Lord Roberts had a limited connection with literature, but that there were many of us who had come to the conclusion that it was better to make history than to write it. (Cheers.)

Lord Roberts had not written books, he had at least appeared in many. (Hear, hear.) He had also had his poet, for they were all acquainted with Mr. Rudyard Kipling's lines celebrating the popularity of "Hob." (Cheers.)

Lord Roberts briefly replied, and the proceedings terminated.

CIVILS.

LORD ROBERTS ON NATIONAL UNITY.

The 104th anniversary dinner of the Royal Literary Fund, held at the Hotel Metropole on April 26, was presided over by Lord Roberts. Those present also included the United States Ambassador (Mr. Bayard), Lord Randolph Churchill, M.P., Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., General Sir George Higginson, General Sir D. Drury-Lowe, General Sir Andrew Clarke, and others.

Lord Roberts, in proposing "The Royal Literary Fund," said he was afraid he must acknowledge that the pan was more powerful than the sword, and that its power, by year increased as education spread.

Two months ago the chairman of that gathering expressed the fear that this was an age of literary decadence. He (Lord Roberts) ventured to think, however, that though there were not great geniuses in literature at present, first interview, commanded by the first interview, he had seen a much

higher standard of average literary merit than was the case in the earlier part of the century. (Hear, hear.) He thought, too, that writers of the present day recognized the importance of an unimpaired lot of thives and liars. Mr. Burridge gave some highly interesting accounts of the difficulties of travel in that remote country, where such luxuries as vehicles were practically unknown, and for the matter of that, impracticable.

It took his party six days to travel a distance of 18 miles. He succeeded in bringing home no less than fifty new species of ferns, besides several new pitcher-plants and orchids.

Mr. Burridge also told of the difficulties of getting the flora of West Borneo to the United States. A school was established there by Mr. Peter Vaitch, sent out by a Chelsea firm to make botanical collections, more particularly in reference to the discovery of new species of pitcher-plants known to exist in great varieties and numbers in certain parts of that country. Before starting, Mr. Burridge received a pleasantly frank description of the inhabitants of Borneo from the veteran botanical traveller, Mr. Thomas Lobb, who had visited the place.

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It took his party six days to travel a distance of 18 miles. He succeeded in bringing home no less than fifty new species of ferns, besides several new pitcher-plants and orchids.

Mr. Burridge also told of the difficulties of getting the flora of West Borneo to the United States. A school was established there by Mr. Peter Vaitch, sent out by a Chelsea firm to make botanical collections, more particularly in reference to the discovery of new species of pitcher-plants known to exist in great varieties and numbers in certain parts of that country. Before starting, Mr. Burridge received a pleasantly frank description of the inhabitants of Borneo from the veteran botanical traveller, Mr. Thomas Lobb, who had visited the place.

Lord Roberts, in proposing "The Royal Literary Fund," said he was afraid he must acknowledge that the pan was more powerful than the sword, and that its power, by year increased as education spread.

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Intimations.

THE CHINA REVIEW.
PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.

THIS Review, which was intended to meet the wants of many students of Chinese caused by the discontinuation of 'Notes and Queries on China and Japan,' has reached its Twenty-first Volume. The Review discusses those topics which are uppermost in the minds of students of the 'Far East' and about which every intelligent person conversed with China or Japan is desirous of acquiring trustworthy information. It includes many interesting Notes and original Papers on the Arts, Sciences, Technology, Folklore, Geography, History, Literature, Mythology, Natural History, Antiquities, and Social Manners and Customs, etc., etc., of China, Japan, Mongolia, Tibet, and the Far East generally. Recently a new departure has been taken, and the Review now gives papers on Trade, Commerce, and Descriptive notes of Travel by well-known writers. It was thought that by extending the scope of the Review in this direction, the Magazine would be made more generally useful.

The Review department receives special attention, and endeavours are made to present a careful and concise record of literature on China etc., and to give critiques embodying sketches of the most recent work on such topics. Authors and Publishers are requested to forward their work to 'Editor, China Review,' care of China Mail Office.

The Notes and Queries are still continued and form an important means of obtaining from and diffusing among students knowledge on obscure points.

The Correspondents' column also affords further and greater facilities for the interchange of views and discussion of various topics.

Original contributions in Chinese, Latin, or English of the Modern Languages are received. The papers are contributed by the members of the various Consular, the Imperial Customs, and Hongkong Services, and also by the Missionary bodies amongst whom a high degree of Chinese scholarship is assiduously cultivated. Amongst the regular contributors are Drs. Chalmers, Fitch, Breitfelder, and Hirth, Professor Lees, and Messrs. Balfour, Watters, Sleath, Phillips, MacIntyre, Groot, Jamison, Parker, Kopch, Parker, Playfair, Jameson, Pitton, and Taylor, all well-known names, indicative of sound scholarship and thorough mastery of their subject.

The Subscription is fixed at \$8.50 per annum, postage included—payable in advance.

Orders for binding volumes will be promptly attended to; address, 'Manuscript, China Mail Office.'

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

'All our learned societies should subscribe to this scholarly and enterprising Review.'—Northern Christian Advocate (U.S.).

'The China Review' is a valuable source of information to seafarers in the Far East, and the present issue will be highly favourable if not advantageous in comparison with preceding numbers.'—*Celestial Empire*.

'This number contains several articles of interest and value.'—*North China Herald*.

'The China Review for September—October fully maintains the high standard of excellence which characterizes that publication, and altogether forms a very interesting and readable number. Meteorologists will find an interesting and valuable contribution by Dr. Fritsch, on "the Amount of Precipitation (Rain and Snow) of Peking," showing the results of observations made at the Imperial Russian Observatory at Peking, from 1841 to 1880. "Notes on the Dutch Occupation of Formosa," by Mr. Geo. Phillips, contains some interesting information, although much of it is second-hand. The Notices of New Books include a most generous and appreciative review of "The Divine Quies of Nan-Hua" and the Notes and Queries are as usual very interesting.'—*North China Daily News*.

'A substantial and reliable Review which all students of China and the Chinese would do well to patronize.'—*Orchardian*.

'The November—December number of the China Review contains less variety than usual, but the few articles are very interesting. The opening paper by Mr. Herbert A. Giles on "The New Testament in Chinese" creates a question that must necessarily be of great importance in the eyes of all missionaries.'—*Mr. E. H. Parker's "Short Journeys in Szechuan"* are concluded, and a goodly instalment of these "Journeys in the Interior of China" is given. Mr. E. H. Balfour contributes a paper of some length entitled "The Emperor, Cheng, founder of the Chinese Empire," which will be read with genuine interest by students of Chinese history. A few short notices of New Books and a number of Notes and Queries, one of which "On Chinese Gases in Western Borneo and Java" might appropriately have been placed under a separate heading, complete the number.'—*H. K. Daily Press*.

'Trübner's Oriental Record' contains the following notice of the China Review:—'The present publication, judging by the number now before us, is intended to occupy a position, as regards China and the neighbouring countries, some what similar to that which has been filled in India by the *Calcutta Review*. The great degree of attention that has been bestowed for years upon the investigation of Chinese literature, antiquities, and social developments, to say nothing of linguistic studies, has led to the accumulation of important stores of information, rendering some such channel of publication as is now provided extremely desirable; and contributions from such sources may fairly be looked for from the members of the foreign consular services, the Chinese Customs corps, and the missionary body, among whom a high degree of Chinese scholarship is now judiciously cultivated, and who are severally represented in the first number of the Review by papers highly suitable to their respective authors.'

'Some translations from Chinese novels and plays are marked by both accuracy and freshness of style; and an account of the career of the Chinese post-stateman of the eleventh century, Su Tung-po, by Mr. E. C. Bowra, is not only historically valuable, but is also distinguished by its literary grace.'

'H. G. Brown & Co., Limited, have issued a series of new books relating to China and the East, which will be a useful feature of the Review. It is carried out with punctuality and detail; we are glad to note that

'Notes' and 'Queries' are destined to find a place in its pages also. It is to be hoped that this opening for contributions on Chinese subjects may evoke a similar degree of literary grace, to that which was displayed during the lifetime of its predecessor in the field, and that the China Review may receive the support necessary to insure its continuance.'

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